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**Ray Schultz receives Wilde Award**

*Summary: Ray Schultz, associate professor of theater at the University of Minnesota, Morris since 2000, has received a Wilde Award for Theatre Excellence from the Detroit Area's GLBT newspaper Between the Lines. The award was for Best Actor in a Drama for his performance last summer in "Take Me Out" at Performance Network in Ann Arbor, Mich.*

(September 25, 2006)-Ray Schultz, associate professor of theater at the University of Minnesota, Morris since 2000, has received a Wilde Award for Theatre Excellence from the Detroit Area's GLBT newspaper Between the Lines. The award was for Best Actor in a Drama for his performance last summer in "Take Me Out" at Performance Network in Ann Arbor, Mich.

"I consider myself very fortunate to be recognized for playing a character who is so complex and articulate in a play that is both brilliantly written and socially relevant," said Schultz. "And as a gay academic whose scholarly interest is gay dramatic literature it is particularly significant to have gotten to play a gay character who is not a stereotype but a highly perceptive and intelligent human being."

Sponsored by Between The Lines, Michigan's weekly newspaper serving the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and allied communities, The Wilde Awards – named after 19th century gay playwright Oscar Wilde – were established in 2002 to honor the excellent work produced by the State's professional theaters and arts organizations.

Schultz holds a doctoral degree in theatre/directing and dramatic literature and a master's degree, both from Wayne State University. He also holds a bachelor's degree in dramatic literature and history of theater and cinema from New York University.

This fall, Schultz is a residential fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study on the University's Twin Cities campus. "I have recently begun researching what I hope will become a book project about playwright Terrence McNally.

"The Institute for Advanced Study is housed in the Nolte Center on the Minneapolis campus. In addition to sponsoring a slate of guest speakers and collaborations that span a wide spectrum of topics and disciplines, they house a group of about 10 fellows a semester," shared Schultz. "The fellows this year are mostly from the Humanities and Social Sciences and are engaged in individual research projects but are also encouraged to engage in 'conversations' that hopefully will spark interdisciplinary connections in their research and teaching."

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